

## 2.0 SETTING

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Emory (2005) has reviewed at length the environmental and culture-historical setting for the SR 1 Little Heaven Grade Separated Intersection project study area. This report briefly overviews the specific settings for Parcels 6 and 7.

### **2.1 Environment**

Parcel 6 is composed of residential, commercial use, and agricultural use land; Parcel 7 is primarily composed of agricultural use land. Trunk Ditch, a tributary of the St. Jones River, is located northeast of the study area. Two of its branches extend into the northern end of the project area. One of these branches is located approximately 30.5 to 45.7 meters north of the intersection of Mulberrie Point Road and SR 1; the second branch extends under SR 1 just south of the High Point mobile home park. Given that Parcels 6 and 7 are located near these minor tributaries, it was determined that they contain moderate prehistoric resource potential. Prehistoric archaeological sites have been documented along the Murderkill River and the St. Jones River, as well as their tributaries.

Parcel 6 measures 1.15 hectares (2.85 acres) in area, extending from Skeeter Neck Road to Mulberrie Point Road (Figure 2). It contains several turn-of-the-twenty-first-century residences. A small stream carries water from a series of ponds on the west side of SR 1 under the roadway and through Parcel 6 and north to Trunk Ditch. *Phragmites* dominate the landscape along the drainage, while the abutting residential yards exhibit grassy lawns, ornamental vegetation, and several medium- to large-diameter trees (Photographs 1 to 4).

Parcel 7 is approximately 2 hectares (4.94 acres) in area and lies almost entirely between SR 1 and Clapham Road/US 113A. Most of the parcel is in an agricultural field adjacent to the south of a forested wetland area associated with Trunk Ditch (Photograph 5). A narrow, roughly 9.1 to 15.2-meter wide test corridor extends approximately 213 meters along the east side of Clapham Road, and another corridor extends approximately 152 meters along the west side of SR 1 (Photographs 6 and 7). A small, triangular area of a manicured front yard at the corner of Buffalo Road and Clapham Road represents the only area of Parcel 7 outside the agricultural field (Photograph 8).



**Photograph 1:** Parcel 6, southwestern edge along SR 1, view looking northwest (January 2008).



**Photograph 2:** Parcel 6, drainage running along west margin of study area, view looking east (January 2008).



**Photograph 3:** Parcel 6, residential-use area on Mulberrie Point Road, view looking east (January 2008).



**Photograph 4:** Parcel 6, residential-use on Mulberrie Point Road, view looking west (January 2008).



**Photograph 5:** Parcel 7, agricultural field south of wooded area, view facing southeast (January 2008).



**Photograph 6:** Parcel 7, plowed corridor of agricultural field along east side of Clapham Road, view facing north (January 2008).



**Photograph 7:** Parcel 7, plowed corridor of agricultural field along west side of SR 1, view facing north (January 2008).



**Photograph 8:** Parcel 7, STP location in manicured yard at corner of Buffalo Road and Clapham Road, view facing west (January 2008).

Soils identified within the study area are within the Sassafras-Fallsington association and are described as predominantly level to gently sloping, possessing both well and poorly drained soils of moderate permeability. Four soil types are present in Parcels 6 and 7. Parcel 6 contains Rumford loamy sand (RuB), 2 to 5 percent slopes; a Sassafras loam (SaB), 2 to 5 percent slopes; and Mixed alluvial land (Mv). Parcel 7 contains two Sassafras sandy loams: an SaB that occurs on 2 to 5 percent slopes and an SaC3 that occurs on 5 to 10 percent slopes (Matthews and Ireland 1971).

## **2.2 Cultural History**

Emory (2005) has reviewed the historical background for the project area. The reader should refer to his work because that history is not duplicated here in its entirety. Emory (2005) and Archibald et al. (2005) have pointed out the presence of a historic site (CRS #K-2722) inside the APE in Area 6-0 of Parcel 6, and a prehistoric site (CRS #K-1404; 7K-F-92) roughly 548 meters to the north of Parcel 6 along Trunk Ditch. The historic site (#K-2722) in Area 6-0 is located on the northeast corner of the Skeeter Neck Road (north) and SR 1 intersection. This was the G. Grier property, which was established in the late nineteenth century as a farmstead and occupied until its demolition in the late twentieth century (A.D. Marble & Company 2005). The nearest known prehistoric site is #K-1404 (7K-F-92), which is located between a drainage to Trunk Ditch and Mulberrie Point Road, approximately 488 meters northeast of the project area (Emory 2005:Figure 2). No artifact data accompanied the survey form, and therefore its temporal attribute is unknown.

Perhaps the most relevant history to be presented in this report is that which belongs to the nineteenth-century African-American settlement that was referred to colloquially as “Little Hell” (Archibald et al. 2005; Alotta 1992). It is possible that Parcels 6 and/or 7 contain evidence of this settlement. A brief history of the settlement is presented in this report in Section 4.2.2, which is also the section that reviews the findings in the plowed field of Parcel 7.